

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SIG-02 /092 R

DRAFTED BY AF:E:GWSCOTT
APPROVED BY AF-RMMOOSE
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O P 180146Z FEB 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, ET, SO

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S COMMENT ON THE HORN FEBRUARY 16

1. THE PRESIDENT MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF BLACK MEDIA ASSOCIATIONS ON FEBRUARY 16. THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE TRANSCRIPT:

QUESTION: QUOTE: WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT THE SITUATION REGARDING ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA? WILL THERE BE ANY TRANSFER OF ARMS TO SOMALIA DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, PERHAPS FROM IRAN?

ANSWER: ...WE DON'T INTEND TO EXTEND ARMS TO EITHER SIDE. WE HAVE CALLED ON SOMALIA TO WITHDRAW FROM ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY OUT OF THE OGADEN AREA.

THE SOMALI POSITION, AS YOU KNOW, IS THESE ARE NOT SOMALIAN TROOPS BUT THEY ARE INDEPENDENT GROUPS WHO WENT IN TO PROTECT CITIZENS OF SOMALI HERITAGE WHO LIVED IN ETHIOPIA.

WE HAVE ALSO LET ETHIOPIA KNOW WE WOULD CONSIDER IT A VERY SERIOUS BREACH OF PEACE, ENDANGERING EVEN WORLD-WIDE PEACE, IF THEY SHOULD CROSS THE SOMALI BORDER IN THEIR COUNTERATTACK.
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I HAVE HOPES THAT THIS WILL NOT BE THE CASE, AND WE HOPE ALSO THAT THE OAU, THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY WILL PLAY A MORE FORCEFUL ROLE IN BRINGING ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA TOGETHER.

THE ETHIOPIANS SAID THEY WILL NOT NEGOTIATE UNTIL SOMALIS ARE OFF THEIR TERRITORY, AND SOMALIS ARE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE OGADEN AREA. BUT WE DO NOT INTEND TO SEND WEAPONS TO SOMALIA OR ETHIOPIA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE043322
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: E:GWSCOTT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780075-0076
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780237/aaaabewr.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cde307d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3546995
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT'S COMMENT ON THE HORN FEBRUARY 16
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, ET, SO, KE, DJ
To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cde307d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014